

September 25, 1998

Obstruct, Delay, and . . . Change the Subject

Democrat Gridlock Continues

During the four years that Democrats last controlled the Senate (1991-1994), the combined number of cloture petitions they filed on legislative items at this point each session (i.e., as of September 25 of each of the four years) totaled 78.

During the last four years that Republicans have controlled the Senate (1995-1998), their cloture filings on legislative items have increased 50 percent, to 116 petitions as of September 25, 1998. The Democrats' complaint about the lack of progress this year is due to their tactic of obstruction and delay — obstruction and delay that is at an historic high in the Senate.

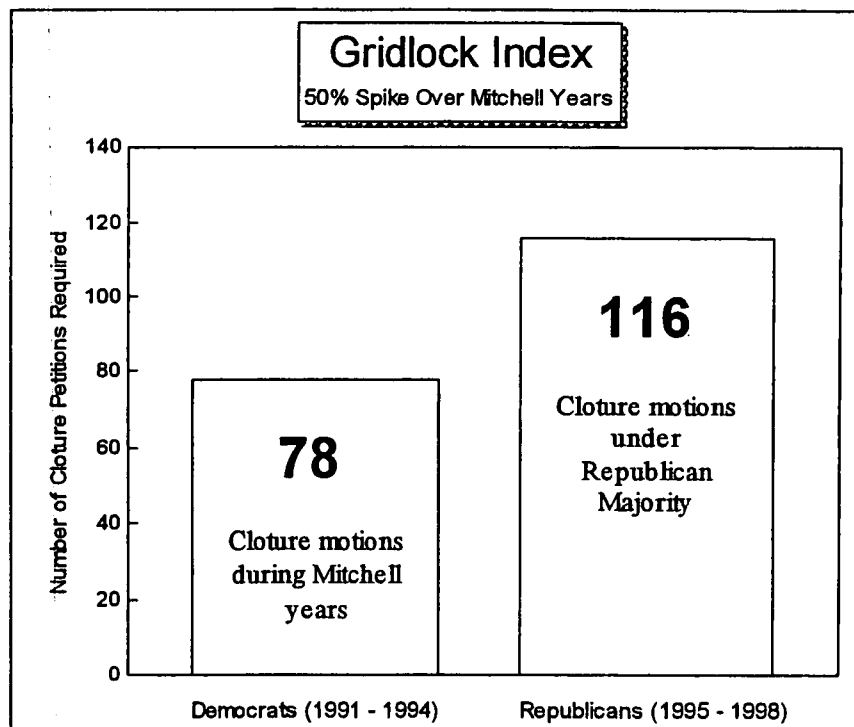
Gridlock Index — So Far, Up 50 Percent Over Mitchell Years

***Cloture Filed By Democrats
During Mitchell Years
(As of Sept. 25 of each year)***

1991.....18 petitions filed
1992.....21 petitions filed
1993.....21 petitions filed
1994.....18 petitions filed
Total.....78 petitions filed

***Cloture Filed By Republican
Majority
(As of Sept. 25 of each year)***

1995.....35 petitions filed
1996.....37 petitions filed
1997.....18 petitions filed
1998.....26 petitions filed
Total.....116 petitions filed



Staff Contact: Candi Wolff, 224-2946